REMARKS

Claims 1 to 5, 7 to 13, 15 to 21, 23 to 29, 31 to 33, 35 to 42, 44 to 51, 53 to 60, 62 to 68 and 89 to 111 are now pending in the application, with Claims 6, 14, 22, 30, 34, 43, 52, 61 and 69 to 88 having been canceled and Claims 109 to 111 having been added. Claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 33, 42, 51, 60, 89, 94, 99, 104 and 109 to 111 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to address some minor typographical errors noted in a review of the specification. A marked-up copy of the specification is attached thereto as Appendix A and depicts the changes being made to the specification. A substitute specification is also being submitted herewith which incorporates all of the marked-up changes. No new matter has been added.

Claims 4, 12, 20 and 28 were objected to for informalities that have been attended to by amendment as recited above. Additionally, Claims 5 to 8, 13 to 16, 21 to 24, 29 to 32, 34 to 41, 43 to 50, 52 to 59 and 61 to 88 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and the points noted in the Office Action have been attended to by amendment as recited above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections and the § 112 rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 25 to 32, 60 to 68, 84 to 88 and 104 to 108 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for allegedly being directed to a computer program *per se*. Without conceding the correctness of the rejections, and while Applicant believes the claims are directed to statutory subject matter within § 101, the claims have nonetheless been

amended as recited above giving due consideration to the points noted in the Office Action. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 101 rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,151,708 (Pedrizetti), Claims 69 to 71, 74 to 76, 79 to 81, 84 to 86 and 89 to 108 were rejected under § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,513,159 (Dodson), Claims 2 to 4, 10 to 12, 18 to 20 and 26 to 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Pedrizetti in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,023,585 (Perlman), Claims 5, 13, 21 and 29 were rejected under § 103(a) over Pedrizetti in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,680,618 (Freund), Claims 6, 14, 22 and 30 were rejected under § 103(a) over Pedrizetti in view of Freund and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,271,454 (Tamura), Claims 7, 8, 15, 16, 23, 24, 31 and 32 were rejected under § 103(a) over Pedrizetti in view of Tamura, Claims 33 to 36, 39 to 45, 48 to 54, 57 to 63, 67 and 68 were rejected under § 103(a) over Pedrizetti in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,819,042 (Hansen), Claims 37, 46, 55 and 64 were rejected under § 103(a) over Pedrizetti in view of Hansen and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,301,012 (White), Claims 72, 77, 82 and 87 were rejected under § 103(a) over Dodson in view of Tamura, and Claims 73, 78, 83 and 88 were rejected under § 103(a) over Dodson in view of Tamura and Hansen. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention of Claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 relates to automatic installation of a device driver for a peripheral device. According to one feature of the invention, driver setting information of a driver instructed to be installed is acquired from an external device to execute automatic installation processing of the driver. As a result,

the setting information is automatically acquired and corresponds to the peripheral device, thereby ensuring a more reliable set-up of the driver.

Referring specifically to the claims, independent Claim 1 is an information processing apparatus for communicating with an external device through a network, comprising acquiring means for acquiring device information of a peripheral device shared on the network from the external device, system display controlling means for displaying, on a display section, a system condition of the peripheral device shared on the network together with an icon by a user interface on a basis of the device information acquired from the external device by the acquiring means, instructing means for instructing installation of a driver for the peripheral device shared on the network in the user interface having the system condition displayed by the system display controlling means, and installation controlling means for acquiring driver setting information instructed to be installed by the instructing means from the external device to execute automatic installation processing of the driver.

Independent Claims 9, 17 and 25 are method, computer-readable medium, and computer program claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 9, 17 and 25, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of acquiring driver setting information for a driver instructed to be installed from an external device to execute automatic installation processing of the driver.

Pedrizetti is seen to disclose a system comprising a client 102, a server 100 and peripheral devices. The client 102 obtains device information from a device an then

obtains compressed bit map 502 from the server 100. Based on the bit map 502, the client 102 determines whether the device driver for the device has been updated. The client 102 obtains an updated driver if it is discriminated that the update is prepared in server 100. Thus, Pedrizetti merely teaches that the client downloads an updated program from the server. However, Pedrizetti is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of acquiring driver setting information for a driver instructed to be installed from an external device to execute automatic installation processing of the driver. Accordingly, Claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 are believed to be allowable over Pedrizetti.

Perlman, Freund and Tamara have all been studied but are not seen to add anything that, when combined with Pedrizetti, would have disclosed or suggested at least the feature of acquiring driver setting information for a driver instructed to be installed from an external device to execute automatic installation processing of the driver.

In view of the foregoing deficiencies of the applied art, all of Claims 1, 9, 17 and 25, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

Referring now to specifically to Claims 33, 42, 51 and 60, Claim 33 is an information processing apparatus for communicating with an external device through a network, comprising device information acquiring means for acquiring device information of a peripheral device shared on the network from the external device, system display controlling means for displaying, on a display section, an overall system condition of the peripheral device shared on the network, and a system condition of a user network of a peripheral device arbitrarily selected from the overall system condition, together with icons, by a user interface in such a manner that the overall system condition and the system

condition of the user network can be identified, on a basis of the device information acquired from the external device by the device information acquiring means, instructing means for instructing to register the peripheral device in the user network, and installation controlling means for executing installation processing of a driver for the peripheral device when registering of the peripheral device to the user network is newly instructed by the instructing means, wherein the system display controlling means dividedly displays a system window for displaying the overall system condition, and a peripheral window for displaying the system condition of a desired peripheral device designated by a user.

Independent Claims 42, 51 and 60 are method, computer-readable medium, and computer program claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 33.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 33, 42, 51 and 60, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of displaying, on a display section, an overall system condition of a peripheral device shared on a network, and a system condition of a user network of a peripheral device arbitrarily selected from the overall system condition, together with icons, by a user interface in such a manner that the overall system condition and the system condition of the user network can be identified, on a basis of device information acquired from an external device, whereby the system display is controlled to dividedly display a system window for displaying the overall system condition, and a peripheral window for displaying the system condition of a desired peripheral device designated by a user.

Pedrizetti merely discloses that an update wizard window displays a listing of available updates in one portion of the window and a description of the update in

another portion of the window. However, Pedrizetti is not seen to disclose or to suggest dividedly displaying a system window for displaying the overall system condition, and a peripheral window for displaying the system condition of a desired peripheral device designated by a user.

Hansen is merely seen to disclose a window (Fig. 9) which displays network devices in one portion of the window, and a network workspace in another portion of the window. However, Hansen is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of displaying, on a display section, an overall system condition of a peripheral device shared on a network, and a system condition of a user network of a peripheral device arbitrarily selected from the overall system condition, together with icons, by a user interface in such a manner that the overall system condition and the system condition of the user network can be identified, on a basis of device information acquired from an external device, whereby the system display is controlled to dividedly display a system window for displaying the overall system condition, and a peripheral window for displaying the system condition of a desired peripheral device designated by a user.

White has been studied but is not seen to add anything that, when combined with Pedrizetti and Hansen, would have disclosed or suggested at least the feature of displaying, on a display section, an overall system condition of a peripheral device shared on a network, and a system condition of a user network of a peripheral device arbitrarily selected from the overall system condition, together with icons, by a user interface in such a manner that the overall system condition and the system condition of the user network can be identified, on a basis of device information acquired from an external device,

whereby the system display is controlled to dividedly display a system window for displaying the overall system condition, and a peripheral window for displaying the system condition of a desired peripheral device designated by a user.

In view of the foregoing deficiencies of the applied art, Claims 33, 42, 51 and 60, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

Referring now to Claims 89, 94, 99 and 104, Claim 89 is an information processing apparatus for communicating with an external computer through a network, comprising receiving means for receiving update trap notification including version information of a driver for a peripheral device from the external computer, wherein the update trap notification is sent from the external computer without waiting for a request for sending the update trap notification from the information processing apparatus, recognizing means for recognizing version information of a driver for a peripheral device incorporated in the information processing apparatus, and updating means for updating the driver for the peripheral device specified by the specifying means on a basis of the version information of the driver whose update notification has been received by the receiving means and the version information of the incorporated driver.

Claims 94, 99 and 104 are method, computer-readable medium, and program claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 89.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 89, 94, 99 and 104, and in particular is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of receiving update trap notification including version information of a driver for a peripheral device from an external computer, wherein the update trap notification is sent

from the external computer without waiting for a request for sending the update trap notification from the information processing apparatus.

Dodson is merely seen to disclose a client 115 that obtains an updated driver from a driver source 140 (Fig. 1). However, Dodson is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of receiving update trap notification including version information of a driver for a peripheral device from an external computer, wherein the update trap notification is sent from the external computer without waiting for a request for sending the update trap notification from the information processing apparatus.

Accordingly, Claims 89, 94, 99 and 104, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are all believed to be allowable.

Newly-added Claim 109 is an information processing apparatus connected to a client apparatus through a network, the information processing apparatus comprising memory means for storing at least one device driver, recognition means for recognizing that a new device driver has been added to the memory means, and transmission control means for controlling, in response to a recognition by the recognition means, a transmission process of transmitting an update notification indicating that the new device driver has been added to the memory means to the client apparatus prior to receiving a request for the notification from the client apparatus.

Newly-added Claims 110 and 111 are method and computer-readable medium claims, respectfully, that substantially correspond to Claim 109.

The art of record is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 109 to 111, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of

controlling, in response to a recognition that a new device driver has been added to a memory storing device drivers, a transmission process of transmitting an update notification indicating that the new device driver has been added to the memory to the client apparatus prior to receiving a request for the notification from the client apparatus.

All of Pedrizetti, Dodson, Hansen, Perlman, Freund, Tamara, and White have been studied but nothing has been found in any of the references, either alone or in any permissible combination, that discloses or suggests at least the feature of controlling, in response to a recognition that a new device driver has been added to a memory storing device drivers, a transmission process of transmitting an update notification indicating that the new device driver has been added to the memory to the client apparatus prior to receiving a request for the notification from the client apparatus.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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